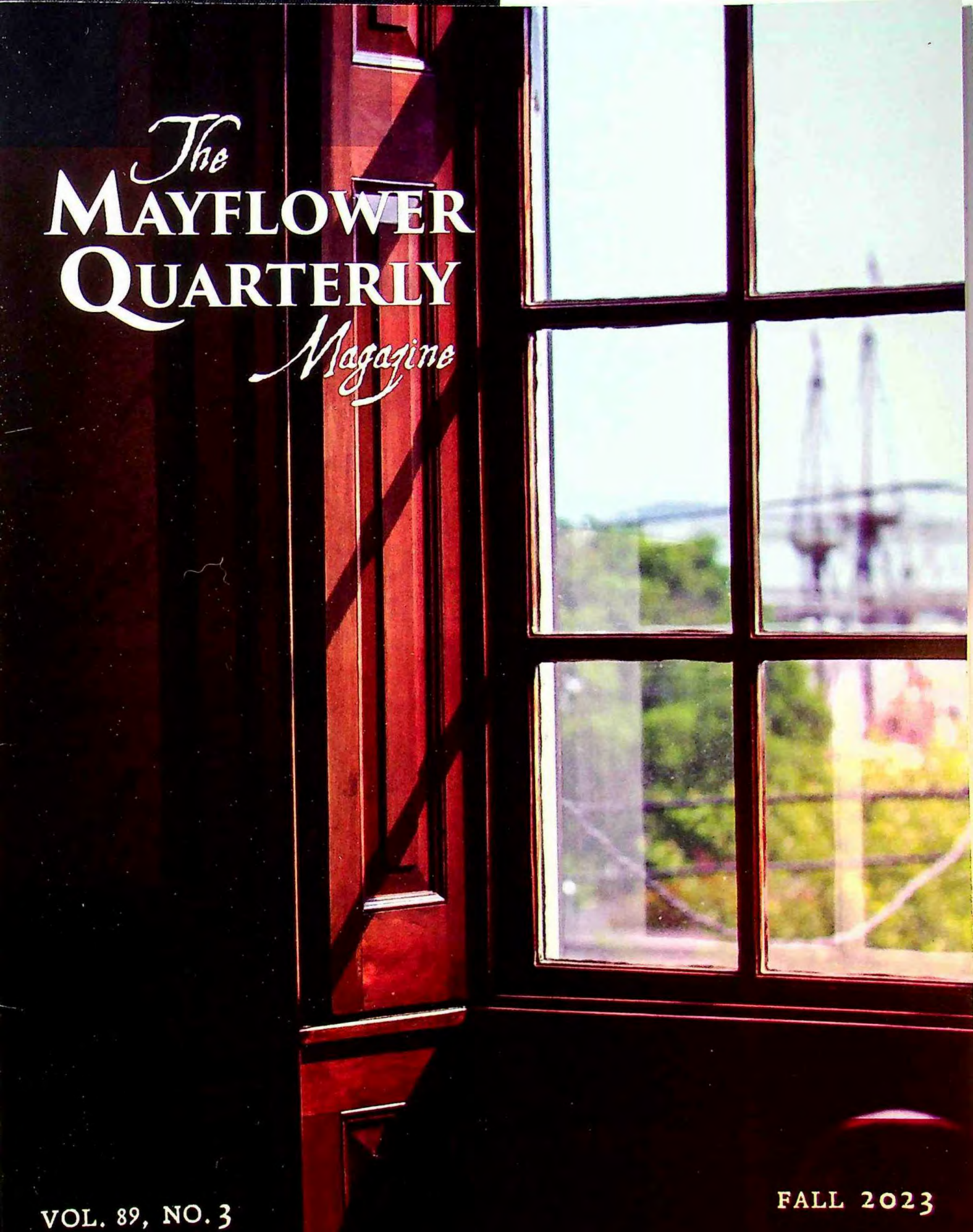

The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine

VOL. 89, NO. 3

FALL 2023

General Society of
Mayflower Descendants

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2020-2023

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THE MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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Beth Anderson-Godfrey, *MQM* Copy Editor

The Mayflower Society House Virtual Lecture Series continues in 2023! These lectures cover a variety of Pilgrim related topics, including the Pilgrims' odyssey, their life and times, their maritime experience and, of course, genealogy.

Please plan to join us for the next lecture topics highlighted below from the comfort of your home. These lectures are free and no preregistration is needed. For more information visit: **TheMayflowerSociety.org/history/lecture-series.**

the Mayflower Society House
Virtual Lecture Series

Tuesday, October 3
7:00 pm (ET)
Denise Cross
"Bridging the Gap: Getting Around Brick Walls"

Tuesday, November 14
7:00 pm (ET)
Bill Cole
"Puritans, Plagues and Promises"

Tuesday, December 12
7:00 pm (ET)
Michael Tougias
"Indian Wars of New England"

Cover Art: The view through the Governor General's bedroom window in the Mayflower Society House. Photo: Doug B.

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Spring Issue	Summer Issue	Fall Issue	Winter Issue

Submissions: To submit to *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, please e-mail MQMEditor@TheMayflowerSociety.org. All articles submitted should be sent as Microsoft Word documents; photographs submitted should be sent as 300 dpi resolution or higher.

Mailing Address:
18 Winslow Street
Plymouth, MA 02360-3313

The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine

VOLUME 89, NO.3
FALL 2023

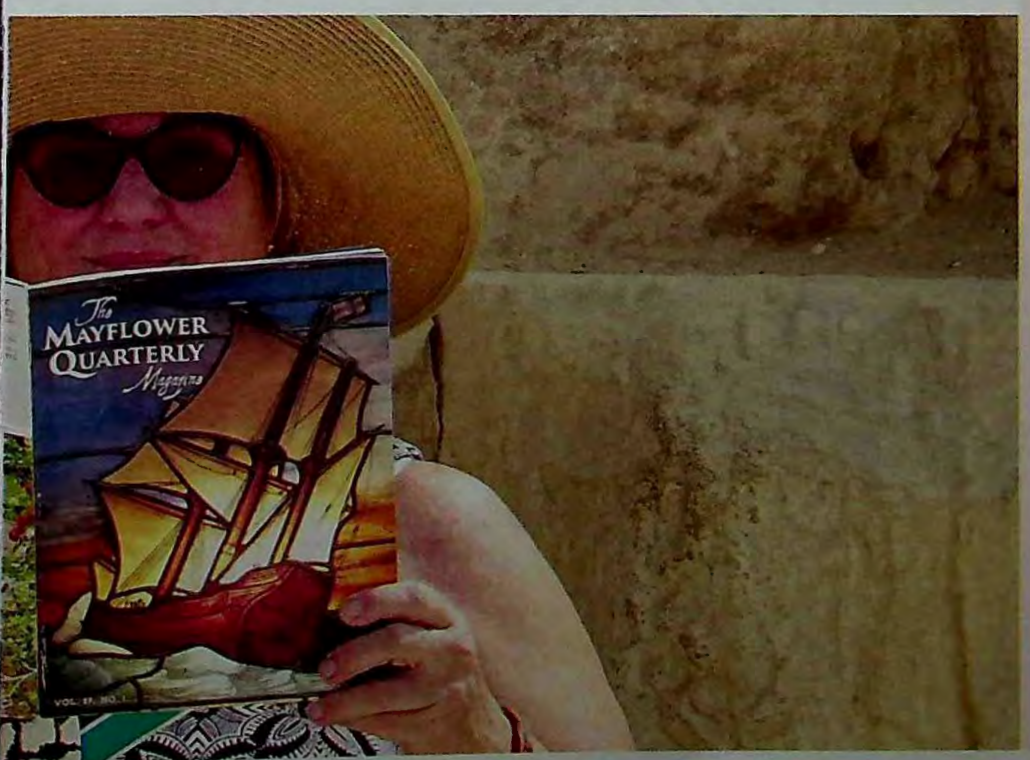
EDITOR'S NOTE

This, the 2023 fall issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, marks one full year that I have had the honor of serving as the Editor-in-Chief of *The MQM*. It has been a wonderful experience thus far and I have no doubt that it will continue to be so. This issue also marks the last issue during the term of the current General Society of Mayflower Descendants' (GSMD) Executive Committee. It has been a pleasure to work with everyone involved and I would like to thank them for their time, dedication and contributions, not just to *The MQM*, but to GSMD as a whole.

Speaking of GSMD, the Forty-Third General Congress is being held in Plymouth, Massachusetts, this September. As many of you read this, members will be preparing to travel to Plymouth to attend the event. If you are unable to attend, worry not, the 2023 winter issue of *The MQM* will bring all the news and happenings of the General Congress to you. Stay tuned.

The MQM has been traveling as well. Deborah Hill, member of the South Carolina Society and Palmetto Log Editor, sent us this wonderful photo from her recent trip to Egypt. Thank you!

– DB



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Governor General's Message

GOVERNOR GENERAL
JANE E. GROVES RIDDELL HURT

The Forty-Third Triennial Congress is September 8-13, 2023. I look forward to welcoming you to America's Hometown: Plymouth, Massachusetts. You are encouraged to visit your restored Mayflower Society House, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants' (GSMD) International Campus, and to take time to see what the Research Center has to offer for your continued ancestral studies. During the Triennial Congress governance days, you will hear about advancing technology, automating the application process, continuing work on the Mayflower Meetinghouse, and learning about many other substantial achievements during this administration. I know you will enjoy this Triennial Congress and all of the Mayflower-related things to do in the area.

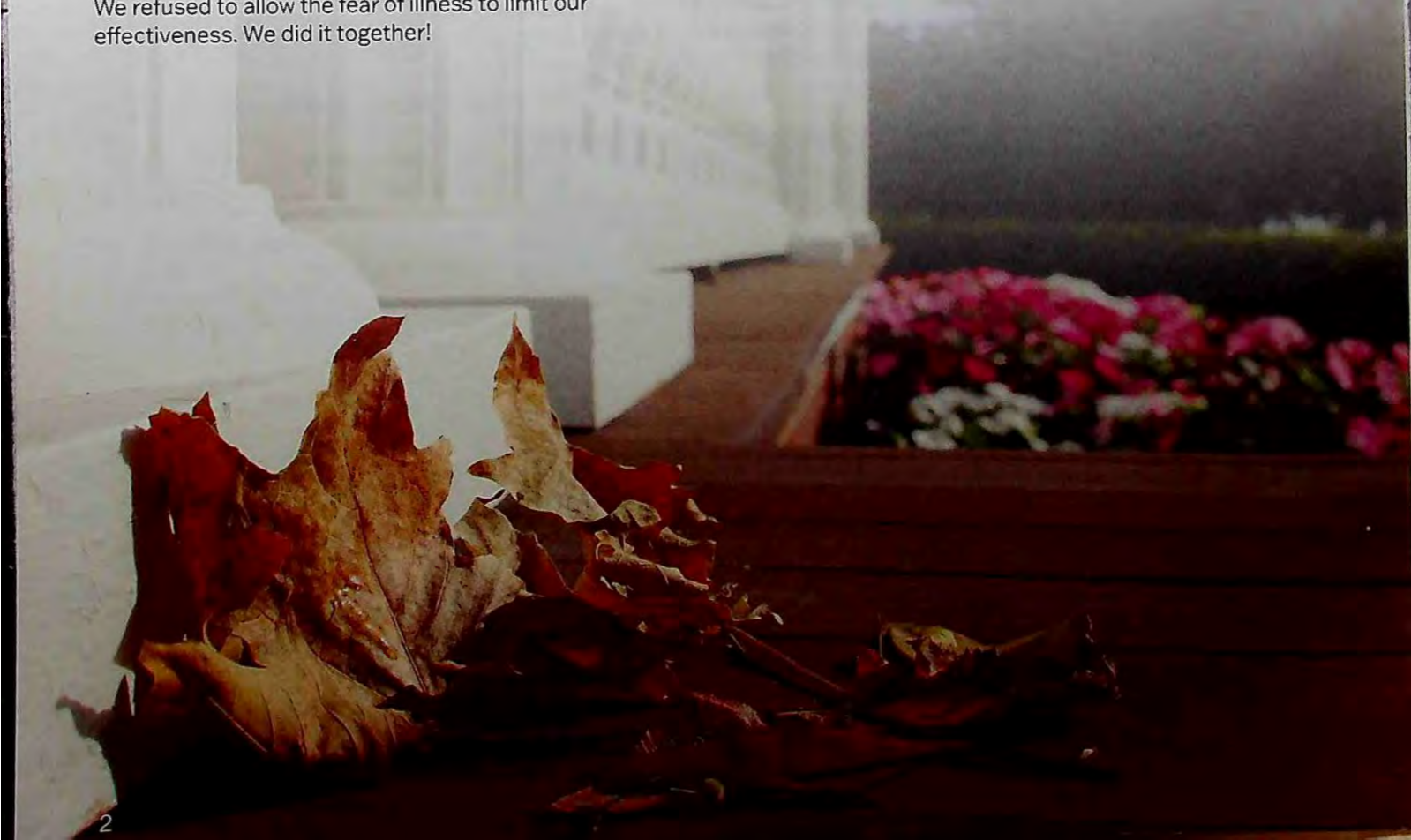
I want to thank you for the privilege of leadership. I am honored to have served the General Society of Mayflower Descendants as the thirty-fifth Governor General. This administration was eclipsed by the international pandemic and yet we persevered as did our ancestors. We refused to allow the fear of illness to limit our effectiveness. We did it together!

We are fundamentally healthy as we embrace the future with great enthusiasm and continued confidence.

This is my final magazine message as your Governor General. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve the General Society together with the most incredible team of officers on the Executive Committee and the General Board of Assistants. These officers have served the General Society of Mayflower Descendants' 30,000 plus membership. You welcomed me to your Member Societies and I will treasure forever your hospitality and those memories. We will continue to tell the Mayflower story.

With my deepest thanks,

Governor General Jane E. Groves Riddell Hurt
2020-2023



News from the Plymouth Office – Executive Director's Update

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARK SCHMIDT

In many ways, autumn is the season that begins and ends many of the events of the year. Summer comes to a close, but school begins. Baseball wraps up its season, but football begins. Shirt sleeves get replaced by jackets. In New England, where our offices are located, autumn is the height of our visitation season. When you hear the phrase "foliage season," you know the words "New England" are usually involved in the next sentence. New England is famous for its scenery and majesty as the leaves turn into a smorgasbord of colors. So many people wait to become leaf-peepers that the fall has become the busiest tourist season of the year in this region. The wait, however, is worth it when people see the variety of palettes that nature presents.

As this autumn approaches, and another foliage season along with it, there will also be another beginning and ending for The Mayflower Society. When the Triennial Congress closes its business in Plymouth on September 12, a new slate of officers will have been elected to oversee the organization. New leadership, new ideas, new voices to lead the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) for the next three years. The new Executive Committee (EC) will follow the directions set by the outgoing EC, finishing its work and at the same time beginning new objectives designed to make the organization stronger. Will everything work? Not sure, but like every new administration, we will find out together.

Meanwhile, the outgoing EC has worked diligently on restoring and renovating the Mayflower Society House (House), enhancing our technology, improving our application process, and bettering our communications and outreach with our members and community. The House has gone through extensive restoration work, repairing years of deterioration to make certain that it can be enjoyed for many years to come. Our website is vastly better than it was. The campus grounds have been tweaked to make them better for those who come to visit. Programs have been boosted to make things more inviting for members and non-members alike. The organization is on the move and the outgoing EC is to thank for that.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to have worked with this group of people. Governor General Jane Hurt has been my boss and guide in assisting me with learning what is involved with GSMD, and I am in her debt for her counsel and wisdom. Governor General Hurt and this EC approved the hiring of many of the current staff members now found in Plymouth, and that talent has manifested itself many times over. I am grateful to oversee such a gifted group as the GSMD staff in Plymouth, and the outgoing EC deserves so much credit for approving these hires.

So, we will welcome a new Executive Committee this fall, to set the course for the upcoming thirty-six months. But before we do, please join me in thanking and praising the outgoing EC for a job well done.

Mayflower Meetinghouse; We are Leaving a Great Legacy

LEA SINCLAIR FILSON, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL PILGRIM MEMORIAL MEETINGHOUSE CHARITABLE TRUST

WE ARE LEAVING A GREAT LEGACY

Fall is the time of year when a brisk breeze often blows up Leyden Street from Plymouth Harbor to tickle the leaves framing the Mayflower Meetinghouse. What is left of the beautiful fall canopy looks like colorful leafy rain falling to the ground. The Mayflower Pilgrims, over 400 years ago, likely saw a similar image as they climbed the very same street to their Meetinghouse. What a great legacy we are leaving to their memory as we restore the Mayflower Meetinghouse.

Our Mayflower Congress in September will give members and families a chance to see the progress of the Mayflower Meetinghouse restoration work. The exterior is finished, the front doors gleam, and in the back, a new ADA elevator will soon be operating. It has been a two-year process to prepare for the elevator, which included the installation of a giant transformer by Eversource. Continual delays with supplies and the shipment of the elevator itself, have all contributed to the delay of its completion.

The story of our Meetinghouse is an interesting one and now you can learn about it in a new book written by noted Pilgrim historian James W. Baker titled, *The Mayflower Meetinghouse, a History and Guidebook*. This wonderful book is available in The Mayflower Society online shop for ten dollars ($10) as well as in the Meetinghouse when it is open for tours. I also have copies of the book in my See Plymouth tourism office at 4 North Street.

Why should you read it? The photos that author James W. Baker included in the book are exceptional and full of historic information. The text is a testament to the involvement the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and many of our Family Societies have had in building and caring for this iconic treasure. A thank you goes to Former Governor General Judith Swan for volunteering to edit the book.

Names of major donors will always be on display in the Mayflower Meetinghouse, and there are many naming opportunities. As you wander through the new entrance, you will see two sizes of leaves on the trailing Arbutus (Mayflower) vine. The leaves will proudly display the names of donors who made sustaining donations of $150 or $250 for that year. Each year the names will change so that those who give new sustaining donations of $150 or $250 will have their names displayed. A donation of $1,000 or $5,000 will allow donors to have their names on a seat or section of a pew in the sanctuary for five years. The cost is less for the pews in the choir loft.

For a handout that tells the inspiring story of the Mayflower Meetinghouse, please contact the GSMD headquarters at **ExecutiveAssist@TheMayflowerSociety.org**. With notice, we can supply you with enough handouts for meetings.

▲ Watercolor by Jeremy Bangs, PhD (Leiden, 1976).

Mayflower Indexers – Preserving the Legacy of Pilgrim Descendants

CHRIS SCHLOSSER, TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR

The indexing platform to digitally capture the life events of every generation from verified Mayflower applications, detailing the lives of our Mayflower ancestors for 400 years, has launched!

Thus far, over 120 Mayflower Society members have volunteered to join the Mayflower Indexers ranks. We have over 100,000 applications – plus thousands of supplementals to index – so we need lots of help.

WHAT DOES A MAYFLOWER INDEXER DO?

Indexers will view previously approved applications via the internet, on a desktop computer or laptop, using a Google Chrome, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge or Mozilla Firefox browser. Then, the Indexers enter that data in a form on the indexing platform specifically designed to mirror our applications for easy data entry.

An internet connection is necessary for any device as this platform is a web-based tool. Nothing will reside on your laptop/desktop. Due to small screen size, indexing on smartphones and tablets is not possible.

Indexers will be assigned applications starting with the most recent applications as these have the most accurate, up-to-date information.

All applications will be indexed by two volunteers with a third "arbiter" making a final determination as to whether there are any discrepancies between the two indexers. Therefore, Mayflower Indexers may do the best job they can, knowing more eyes will be reviewing the indexed data.

DO I NEED SPECIAL SKILLS TO BE A MAYFLOWER INDEXER?

Indexers should demonstrate an attention to detail. Our Mayflower Society applications have evolved since the first application was approved in 1897. Early applications were often handwritten, and as a result, there may be challenges in deciphering handwriting or margin notes. So, if you enjoy extracting data from historical records, please consider being a volunteer Mayflower Indexer.

WHEN AND WHERE CAN A MAYFLOWER INDEXER INDEX?

Indexing is a great way to contribute to The Mayflower Society on your own schedule from any location. Indexers can volunteer in their homes, at times convenient to them, for as much time as they want. The indexing platform will be open for business and available to Mayflower Indexers 24/7.

WHAT TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED TO MAYFLOWER INDEXERS?

A User Guide is available providing detailed instructions on how to capture all critical information from every generation. As noted earlier, the applications have changed over the years, so although we have tried to establish rules, there are often exceptions. Overview sessions will be available as needed.

WHO CAN BE A MAYFLOWER INDEXER?

Only Mayflower Society members are eligible to participate. To ensure the confidentiality of application data, all indexers will be required to sign a Nondisclosure Agreement (NDA) form prior to starting the project.

WHY ARE MAYFLOWER APPLICATIONS BEING INDEXED?

The current system of accessing data from prior applications is mostly a manual process. Building new applications is entirely a manual process. Fully digitized applications and documentation and fully indexed applications will enhance access for Plymouth staff and Member Society Historians, and at the same time further preserve our treasure trove of Mayflower Descendants' historical data.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS PROJECT?

Once complete, the Mayflower Generations Index will fuel the Easy App Generator which will populate new Mayflower Society member and supplemental applications with data that has been previously

approved. When fully implemented, the Easy App Generator will improve the application process for applicants, Member Society Historians, and Library and Verifier teams.

In addition, the creation of a comprehensive applications index and automated applications are a huge leap forward for The Mayflower Society. And Mayflower Indexers will have the honor of knowing they have propelled The Mayflower Society to a new level in the digital age – at the same time preserving the lineages of generations of Mayflower Descendants.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT JOINING THE MAYFLOWER INDEXERS?

To volunteer, or to ask questions about volunteering, please contact Ms. Chris Schlosser, Technology Committee Chair, at **TechCommittee@TheMayflowerSociety.org**.

Secretary General's Heartfelt Appreciation to GSMD Members

MEG AVERETT, SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear GSMD Members,

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the General Society of Mayflower Descendants' (GSMD) Secretary General. Unfortunately, I have had an unforeseen accident. On April 22, while walking my dog Brad, namesake of Governor Bradford, I was knocked down by a Canada goose and broke my femur.

Thank you for the calls, cards, and prayers during my recovery. A special thanks goes to Acting Secretary General Marty Beerman, who has taken over the responsibilities of my office.

During my time as Secretary General, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible commitment and hard work each of you brings to the Society. Your dedication to GSMD and your efforts in advancing our goals have been inspiring.

I am immensely grateful for the support, cooperation, and trust that you extended to me. Working with all of you has been a fulfilling experience, and I will cherish the memories and relationships.

My commitment to GSMD and its mission remains strong. If there is any way I can continue to support or contribute in the future, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary General.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Meg Averett
Secretary General

In Memoriam

Bruce Harris Allen of Rapid City, South Dakota, passed away on December 8, 2022, at the age of 91. Mr. Allen served the South Dakota Society as Surgeon for many years. He was a descendant of William White. Mr. Allen is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Louise (Anderson) Allen; his children, Richard Allen, Karen Allen Failinger, Susan Roux Sheehan and Diane Rodrigue; fifteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Suzanne Elizabeth Ress of Malnate, Italy, passed away on April 10, 2023, at the age of 64. Ms. Ress was a charter member of the Europe Society and served as its Deputy Governor from 2016 to 2023 and as it GSMD Deputy Governor General – Europe. She was a descendant of William White, Susanna Jackson White, Resolved White, Francis Cooke, John Alden, Priscilla Mullins and William Mullins. Ms. Ress is survived by her husband, Stefano Donadio; two daughters, Isabella and Giulia; and four grandchildren.

Robert Everett Holman, Jr. of Columbia, South Carolina, passed away on June 4, 2023, at the age of 88. Mr. Holman served the South Carolina Society as Governor, Historian, and Newsletter Editor. He was a descendant of both Isaac Allerton and Richard Warren. Mr. Holman is survived by his wife, Gertrude Annette (Peterson) Holman; his children, Robert D. Holman, Glen A. Holman, Deborah A. Strikeleather and Peter T. Holman; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Michael Shannon Nichols of Georgetown, Texas, passed away on July 8, 2023, at the age of 79. Mr. Nichols served the Texas Society as Governor from 2017 to 2019, Treasurer from 2011 to 2017, and Corresponding Secretary from 2007 to 2011. He was a descendant of John Howland, Elizabeth Tilley, John Tilley and Joan (Hurst) Tilley. Mr. Nichols is survived by his wife, Patricia A. Nichols.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants remembers those members who have served on the board of a Member Society or as a General Society officer. If a past or present officer of your Member Society has passed away, please complete the In Memoriam Form located in the Members Area of the GSMD website under Society Resources, and email it to **SecretaryGeneral@TheMayflowerSociety.org.**

Mayflower Society House Updates

MARK SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the repair and restoration work on the Mayflower Society House (House) nears completion, the following are updates on some facets of the work:

- Thanks to a grant from the Plymouth Community Charitable Foundation, a new accessibility ramp was constructed into the rear entrance of the House which will provide easier access to the building.
- Thanks to a grant from an anonymous foundation, a new copper roof was installed above the veranda, replicating the historic roof as it was in the early twentieth century. During the installation of the roof, the workers discovered structural defects in the veranda that needed to be corrected. Had the copper roof not been installed, these defects would not have been detected, and an even larger problem would have soon emerged.
- Thanks to a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Cultural Facilities Fund, new storm windows were created, new screens were built, and existing windows and shutters were upgraded. New gutters were installed to help mitigate the moisture issues that had been created over the years.
- Thanks to a bequest to The Mayflower Society from a long-time member, a new caterer's kitchen was built and a bathroom was renovated and upgraded.
- Thanks to proceeds received from an insurance claim, The Mayflower Society made emergency repairs to the electrical and heating systems in the House.
- Thanks to funds that had been set aside over the years in anticipation of the needed upgrades of the building by the Executive Committee, for just this reason, other long needed upgrades were made to the House. The House is The Mayflower Society's signature property, and this money was to be utilized for oversight to the needs of the building.

The Mayflower Society House, acquired by The Mayflower Society in 1941, and located in the Plymouth Historic Waterfront District, has been the landmark property that has identified The Mayflower Society for many years. The original portion of the House was built in the mid-eighteenth century and was then expanded upon in the late nineteenth century. The House was very much in need of upgrades, restoration, and renovation so that it could be preserved for future generations to enjoy. The Mayflower Society has been vigilant in making certain that all the work involved has been completed in a cost-effective manner and has been necessary for the longevity and success of the House. As every homeowner knows, there will always be something that needs addressing, so you work within your means to make sure the issue is resolved. We thank everyone who has been involved in making this project a reality, and accomplishing the repairs in a fiscally responsible manner.

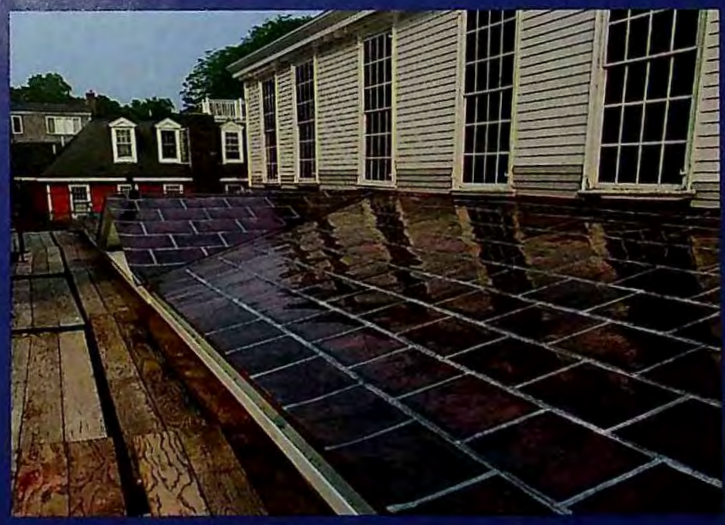
GSMD Research Center

MARK SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) has rebranded its on-campus "Library" to "Research Center." The new title is a more apt description of what GSMD offers to the public as a destination venue. As GSMD works toward expanding its offerings to include research services, for both its members and the general public, the new branding better promotes the talents of the staff. To that end, GSMD has hired Barbara Milligan as the new Research Center Director. Barbara is a longtime and well-respected nonprofit leader, having served as Executive Director of several organizations in New England during her career. She is also a trained historian with a master's degree in public history. Her new position which began on July 10, 2023, has her overseeing the Research Center staff, as GSMD moves forward to provide the best in person and online service for people searching for a Mayflower ancestor.

GSMD Receives Grant for New Roof

MARK SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) has received a grant of approximately $165,000 to be used to pay for the installation of a new copper roof above the first-floor veranda of the Mayflower Society House. This grant, from a foundation that wishes to remain anonymous, was given because the foundation is pleased that the needs of the Mayflower Society House are being addressed after so many years, and wants to make certain that the restoration work is completed in the manner intended. The foundation specifically earmarked the cost of the copper roof installation as the intended purpose of the grant. Like an earlier grant for the creation of a handicap ramp, GSMD is obliged to use the money in the manner stipulated.

MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

Governor Matthew Harrison, Deputy Governor Richard Spargo, Secretary Ronald Mayes, Treasurer Ronald Cade, Historian Susan Gillette, Counsellor Andrew Turner, Elder Phillip Jay, Governor General Jane Hurt, Surgeon Patty Campbell, Captain Thomas Drummond, Archivist Samuel Mecham, *Mayflower Log* Editor Mary Hart, Hospitality Chair Alice Gardner, Junior Membership Chair Linda Tailleart, Member Engagement Chair, Public Relations Chair Janel Kasowski, Website Administrator Trinidad Sanchez.

ARIZONA

A Pilgrimage to the Old West

Governor General Jane E. Groves Riddell Hurt arrived two days early to The Valley of the Sun to attend the Arizona Mayflower Society Annual Meeting on April 23, 2023.

It was our honor to host Governor General Hurt and show her some of the highlights of the greater Phoenix area. Member Tom Billard and his wife Pam acted as private tour guides. The first stop on the tour was lunch at Lon's at the Hermosa Inn nestled at the foot of Camelback Mountain, formerly, at the turn of the twentieth century, the private residence of landscape painter Lon Megargee.

The Governor General's tour continued to the Western Museum in Old Town Scottsdale. The Western Museum featured an amazing exhibit of Edward Curtis's photos of Native Americans he had taken over the decades. Later that evening we returned to Old Town Scottsdale for dinner at the Roaring Fork where several Society officers joined Governor General Hurt. The Roaring Fork is a stylish restaurant with an Old West vibe serving flame-grilled American fare.

The next day our intrepid guides took Governor General Hurt to Taliesin West for a docent-guided tour. Taliesin West was the winter-desert home and studio of architect Frank Lloyd Wright from 1937 until his death in 1959. The visit was special in many ways, not the least being that Governor General Hurt's grandson is an architect. The docent was also extremely interesting and knowledgeable.

The next stop was a tour of the Musical Instrument Museum and its collection of over 7,500 musical instruments from more than 200 countries and territories. Governor General Hurt was able to tour the musical world continent by continent.

Dinner on Saturday night was hosted by Arizona Society Governor Matthew Harrison at the Stockyards Restaurant, with many of our officers in attendance. The Stockyards, which opened in 1947, is Arizona's original and storied steakhouse. It presents a beef-heavy menu in Wild West inspired, saloon-like quarters.

Our Annual Meeting started the next day and was held in the Red Mountain Ballroom at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel in Mesa, Arizona. Governor Matthew Harrison presided over the meeting and luncheon.

Governor General Jane Hurt took to the podium to deliver an audio-visual presentation on the renovation and preservation of the Mayflower Society House, originally built by Edward Winslow, great-grandson of Pilgrim Edward Winslow.

Governor General Jane Hurt then installed the new officers for the 2023-2026 term, creating an honor and a very special moment for our Arizona Mayflower Society.

We hope that Governor General Hurt enjoyed her visit to Arizona.

Submitted by: Rick Spargo, *Deputy Governor*

AUSTRALIA

The Australia Society Hosts Governor General Hurt

Governor General Jane Hurt arrived in Brisbane, Australia, on 12 July for her official visit to the Australia Society. We were honored to host Governor General Hurt for her eight-day stay Down

Under and to have her as our guest speaker at our Annual Meeting on the 15th of July. Highlights of Governor General Hurt's visit to Australia will be submitted for the winter issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine.*

Our Society continues to grow and we were pleased to welcome the following five new members to its ranks: Katherine M. (Sharpe) McGlinchy, Associate Member Eric "Barry" McGlinchy, Dual Member the Reverend Michael R. Denney from Kittery, Maine, Dual Member Martin Beerman from Omaha, Nebraska, and Dual Member Alexandra (Allie) Golon from Erie, Colorado.

Submitted by: Keith C. Quimbach, *Governor*

FLORIDA

Florida's Elizabeth Tilley Colony Awards Scholarships

On May 13, 2023, the Elizabeth Tilley Colony met at the Plantation Golf Club in Venice, Florida, for its Spring Meeting. Each year the Colony awards a scholarship to an exceptional high school student, who is closely related to a member of the colony and submits an essay on "What My Mayflower Ancestry Means to Me."

Linda Bazell, Scholarship Committee Chair, announced that she and Colony Historian Howard Berna agreed to award scholarships to two recipients: Chloe Tiainen and Victoria Apostolakes.

Chloe Tiainen graduated from Callisburg High School in Callisburg, Texas, where she completed numerous honor courses throughout her high school career, was a member of the National Honor Society and was active in both Future Farmers of America and student government. Ms. Tiainen maintained a 4.9 grade point average while holding a job, volunteering at both her school's food pantry, and at her church, remodeling damaged buildings. She will be attending Tarleton State University where she plans to major in Agriculture. Ms. Tiainen is a Junior Member of the Elizabeth Tilley Colony and is a descendant of Mayflower passengers John Alden, William Bradford, Edward Doty, Edward Fuller, William Mullins and George Soule. She is the granddaughter of Elizabeth Tilley Colony member Valorie Sherman.

Top: Victoria Apostolakes. Below: Chloe Tiainen.

Victoria Apostolakes graduated from Chelmsford High School in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, where she completed numerous college prep, honors, and AP courses, while maintaining a 4.1 grade point average. Ms. Apostolakes was a member of the National Honor Society, Captain of her school's ice hockey team, and a winner of many awards as a member of her school's lacrosse team. Her volunteer work included helping children and teens develop skills in sports' abilities, as well as their leadership and problem-solving skills. Ms. Apostolakes plans to study Biomedical Engineering at Endicott College. She is the niece of Elizabeth Tilley Colony member Eleanor Langlois and the descendant of Mayflower passengers Francis Cooke and Richard Warren.

Since both scholarship recipients lived out-of-state, their sponsors read their award-winning essays.

Submitted by: Muriel Curtis Cushing

INDIANA

Indiana Society Welcomes Governor General Jane Hurt

On March 25, 2023, the Indiana Society of Mayflower Descendants welcomed Governor General Jane Hurt to its Semi-Annual Membership Luncheon. Fifty-seven members and guests from around the state were honored to meet the Governor General and hear her presentation on the state of the General Society. Of special interest was the information she provided on the various renovation projects throughout the buildings owned by the General Society. Improvements have been carefully planned to include appropriate traditional materials as well as to employ artisans specializing in the styles of the period. The Indiana Society would like to thank Governor General Hurt for her time and leadership! The Society also

welcomed four members to their first meeting including Tracie Cloe Curtis, descendant of Stephen Hopkins, Jane Byer Cook, Nancy Souers Fribley, and Carolyn Niemantsverdriet, all descendants of Edward Doty. Nancy traveled all the way from her home in New Jersey!

Submitted by: Diana Soule McDowell, *Corresponding Secretary*

MISSISSIPPI

Governor General Jane Hurt Attends Mississippi Society Meeting

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Mississippi was honored to host Governor General Jane Hurt for its Spring Member Society Meeting on April 14-15, 2023. It was an enjoyable experience for all who attended. The weekend began on Friday with a driving tour of the Vicksburg National Military Park, where the Vicksburg Campaign began in 1862 and finished with the confederate surrender on July 4, 1863. It could not have been more perfect weather for the outing. We rode through the peaceful, rolling hills stopping to reflect on the many monuments and statues honoring those soldiers who lost their lives in this Campaign. The day ended with dinner at Amerigo, an Italian eatery in Ridgeland.

Left to right: Mississippi Governor Melinda Hendrix, Governor General Jane Hurt, Mississippi AG Nancy Harrison in front of the Illinois Monument at Vicksburg Military Park.

The Spring Mayflower Luncheon on Saturday was held at the Reunion Golf and Country Club in Madison, Mississippi. It was well-attended and included a very informative address from Governor General Hurt detailing the current and future restoration work on the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse and the Mayflower Society House. Her remarks included interesting personal anecdotes about her time as Kansas Historian and her lasting friendships forged by our Mayflower ancestor heritage. Her address concluded with encouragement to attend the upcoming Forty-Third Triennial Congress in Plymouth, Massachusetts, which will be held September 8-13.

Mississippi Governor Melinda Hendrix presided over a short business meeting. The position of Assistant Historian was created to work with the Historian on the many duties of the position within the Society. The Mississippi Mayflower Board of Assistants meeting was held earlier in the week to ensure that officers and members could visit with and ask questions of Governor General Hurt during her time with us. The Mississippi Society would like to express our gratitude to her for taking time to visit and share her experiences with us.

Submitted by: Nancy Harrison, *AG Mississippi*

OHIO

Ohio Society Holds Annual Meeting

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Ohio (SMDOH) held its Annual Meeting on May 6, 2023, in the beautiful City of Kent. The event was hosted by the Western Reserve Colony's Lieutenant Governor Cindy Nichols, Deputy Lieutenant Governor Marilyn Sessions, and Ohio Society Governor Jill Parker. The keynote speaker was Dr. Scott Culpepper, PhD who is a professor of history at Dordt University in Sioux City, Iowa. Dr. Culpepper spoke about the importance of "Origin Stories" and the reasons for keeping the story of the Mayflower Pilgrims alive for inspiration, preservation, admonition and education. Dr. Culpepper stressed the importance of the members of The Mayflower Society to share not only the story of their ancestors, but also the courage and bravery of the small group that found themselves in the New World to build a life from the wilderness. He also noted the importance of correcting those who would alter the story to fit today's societal norms. Dr. Culpepper recommended the following books:

- *The First Thanksgiving: What the Real Story Tells Us About Loving God and Learning From History*, written by Robert Tracy McKenzie and published by IVP Academic in 2013.
- *City on a Hill: Urban Idealism in America from the Puritans to the Present*, written by Alex Krieger and published by Belknap Press in 2018.
- *Francis Johnson and the English Separatist Influence: The Bishop of Brownism's Life, Writings and Controversies*, written by Scott Culpepper and published by Mercer University Press in 2011.

New officers, in attendance, were installed for the 2023-2026 term. The new board plans to continue the work started by Jill Parker, Past Ohio Governor. They will be actively involved in a strategic planning activity focused on involving members, and mentoring members into leadership roles in the colony, state, and national levels. A new effort to

Left to right: Cheryl Bash, Elder; Mary Chase, Treasurer; Tereas Brown, Deputy Historian; Beth Anderson, Governor; Betsie Gricar, Deputy Governor; Ann Gulbranson, Historian; Nancy Little, Recording Secretary.

embrace our junior members is also a focus of this planning. A core group has met, and the outcome of that meeting will be shared at the SMDOH meeting in August. Following the meeting, the Lieutenant Governors will be asked to bring the information back to the colonies for member input.

The Ohio Society is supporting twelve members to attend the Triennial Congress Meeting in Plymouth.

Submitted by: Beth Anderson, *Governor*

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Society Spring Anniversary Meeting

Fifty members and guests of the Oklahoma Society met for the Spring Anniversary Meeting on April 22, 2023, at the Tulsa Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma. During the business meeting, Elder Cherie Lawson conducted a service in memory of the five members who had passed away in 2022. Historian Kathy Patterson welcomed six new members by application and two new members by transfer. Following the business meeting and luncheon, members and guests enjoyed the PowerPoint slide presentation, "Reverend John Robinson: His Importance to the Mayflower Pilgrims." The presentation by GSMD Assistant General-Oklahoma Cherie Lawson, featured photos of the sites in England and Holland that pertained to the Pastor to the Pilgrims which were taken during her trip last summer with The Mayflower Society members.

Standing, left to right: Craig Crow, Assistant (to the Historian); Henry Baer, Parliamentarian and Past Governor; Ray Meritt, Treasurer; Cindy Purcell, Secretary; Kathy Patterson, Historian; Dr. Joe Hamill, Surgeon; Leslie Reid, Webmaster. Seated, left to right: Sarah McGuire, Deputy Governor; Norma Hughes, Governor and DGG; Cheri Lawson, Elder and AG.)

OREGON

Oregon Society Member Forms a New Local Group

Oregon Society member Rebecca Locklear, an educational writer, formed a new local group in 2019 called the Central Oregon Mayflower Descendants so that she could share her love of Mayflower history with others in her rural area who live a great distance from where the Oregon Member Society and Colony Society meetings are held.

This past January she proposed "Mayflower Event!" to be held in June 2023 in her rural area and asked the Bend Genealogical Society to be a co-sponsor for the event. Rebecca spearheaded the planning for the free (with a donation jar), no registration event with the assistance of both Sandy Thompson from the Bend Genealogical Society and Oregon Society member D'Ann Nash. "Mayflower Event!" would begin with a meet and greet followed by speakers in the first hour and end with a hands-on exhibit experience at various Mayflower themed table displays. The question was – would their neighbors come? Was there any local interest in the history of the *Mayflower*?

On June 10th they had their answer and were overwhelmed. Sixty-five people poured through the doors. The visitors represented homeschool groups (with their children), folks interested in history and genealogy, lineage society members like Daughters of the American Revolution, and the curious. There were even people who knew they were descendants of the *Mayflower*.

When the door greeters found descendants of Alden, Bradford, Brewster, Cooke, Doty, Fuller, Hopkins, and Soule among the visitors, they placed Mayflower Descendant stickers on them so Oregon Society members and genealogists could guide them in their family history pursuit.

For the opening, Rebecca led a fun interactive Native chant activity as an icebreaker. Then Oregon Society Governor Beth Lambright gave a brief and dynamic presentation of the timeline of Pilgrim history.

"The room was abuzz with conversation after Beth finished speaking. Attendees were excited by what they heard and wanted to talk with others as well as to the historians and genealogists who manned the exhibit tables," wrote a visitor.

People were amazed at the quantity, quality, and antiquity of items to look at and touch. Exhibit tables were identified with huge signs: Books

Mayflower descendants at "Mayflower Event!" in rural Oregon. Front row, second from left in a costume she made, OSMD D'Ann Nash. Center, Governor Beth Lambright. Far right, organizer and OSMD member Rebecca Locklear.

(adultchildren), Book & Card Sales, Cape Cod, Coloring Pages, Farm (local round bread/organic vegetables), Genealogy, Indigenous People, Nantucket, 1600 Home & Farm Items, and Thanksgiving – including a table setting a la 1621. There were many large maps and posters. Visitors also sampled Wampanoag stew and cornbread with cranberries from 8-row flint cornmeal obtained from Plymouth. Children played 1600s games.

Local Mayflower Descendants, who previously knew little of their family history or The Mayflower Society, found each other and eagerly took pictures together. The Central Oregon group was excited to discover many more Mayflower cousins right in their own backyard.

"Mayflower Event!" proved to be a wonderful way to encounter others in the area with an interest in Mayflower history. The only question visitors had was… "When can we do this again?" As you might guess, Central Oregon Mayflower Descendants already has plans for the fall.

Submitted by: Rebecca Locklear

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Society Hosts Governor General Jane Hurt

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of South Carolina (SMD-SC) held its Spring Luncheon Meeting on April 29, 2023, at the Poseidon Event Center in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Over seventy attendees from around the Palmetto State enjoyed meeting Governor General Jane Hurt and learning of the numerous historically appropriate and desperately needed renovations at the Mayflower Society House in Plymouth. It was evident that Governor General Hurt has a passion for this project, which is why South Carolina Governor Melana Maxie made the Mayflower Society House restoration her project as well. She challenged South Carolina members to donate to the "2023 Governors Challenge" to support the Governor General's vision. As a result of SMD-SC members generous support, Governor Maxie proudly presented Governor General Hurt with a check for $4,000 from the South Carolina Society and designated the funds to support the Mayflower Society House.

Also attending our luncheon was GSMD Member-at-Large Bonnie Wade Mucia who graciously hosted the Governor General.

Our Society is excited to have nine delegates attend the 2023 Triennial Congress in Plymouth this September. We are very much looking forward to seeing the renovations at the Mayflower Society House and the Mayflower Meetinghouse in person, as well as connecting with cousins along the way and being part of the process of Congress.

Submitted by: Deborah Hill, *Palmetto Log Editor*

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Mayflower Society Elder Thomas P. Curtis Receives Award

On March 27, 2023, Wisconsin Mayflower Society Elder Thomas P. Curtis was awarded a Hall of Fame award from the Wisconsin State Genealogy Society. Along with the Wisconsin Mayflower Society, Curtis has been a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, the General Society of Colonial Wars, Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, and Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, among many others. Additionally, Thomas Curtis has held numerous leadership roles within each society over the years.

Within the Wisconsin Mayflower Society, Curtis held the position of Governor from the years 1987 to 1990 and has been Elder for several years now. He has contributed to the national prayer book and prays over meetings and gathering events of the Society. Curtis also reads the Mayflower Compact aloud every Compact Day, which has become a powerful and meaningful reminder and tradition for everyone in the Wisconsin Mayflower Society.

Curtis is also an internationally known portrait artist. His work is a part of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., and other collections as well. Along with that skill, he was also part of the Army and served in the Vietnam War for five years. He has since retired holding the title of Lieutenant Colonel.

Thomas Curtis is an outstanding leader and member of the Wisconsin Mayflower Society and is very much deserving of this award. It is an honor to have Thomas as a vital part of our Society.

Submitted by: Deidra Brick, *Publicity Assistant*

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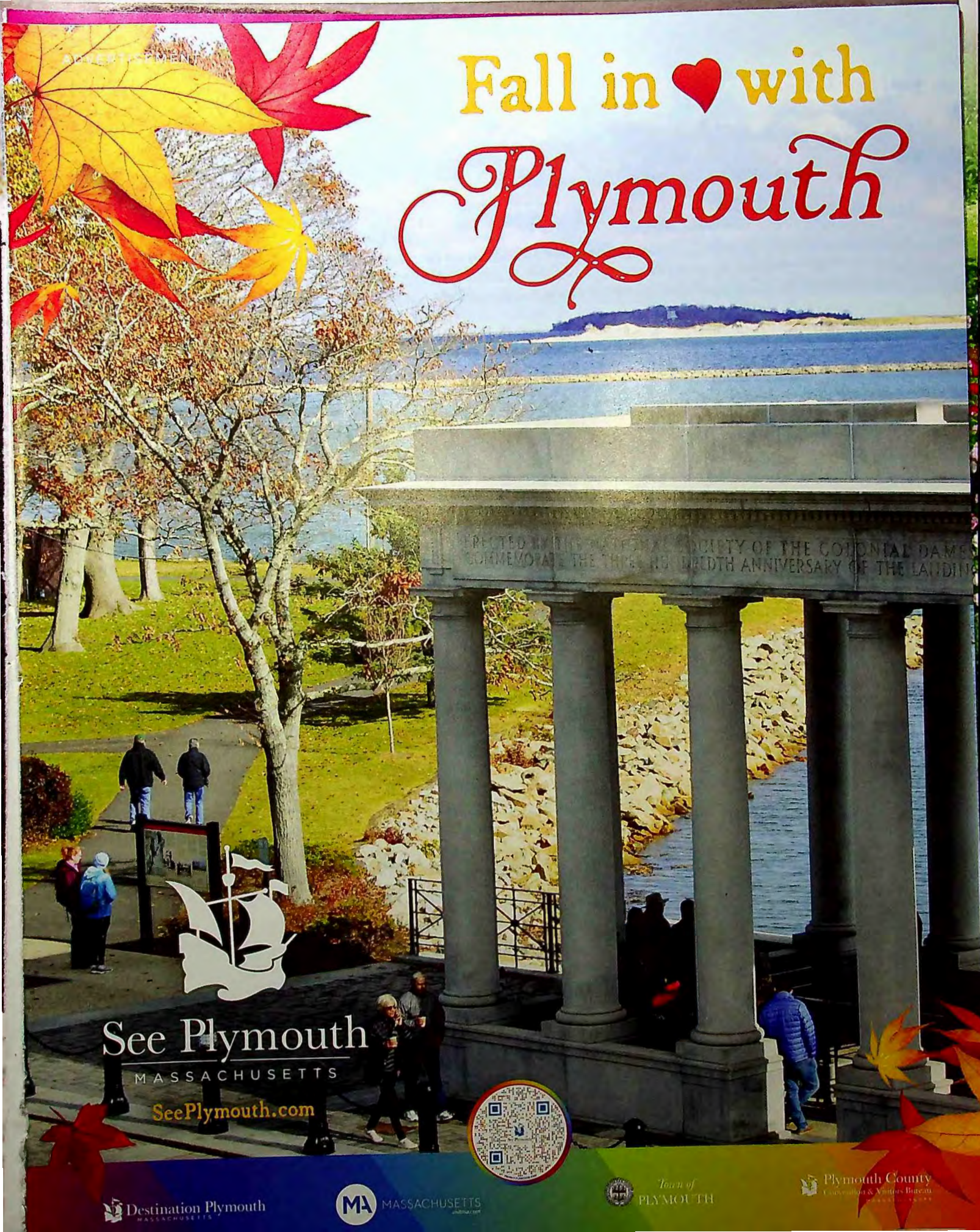

Thanksgiving

DOUG BLAKE, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER;
THE MQM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THANKSGIVING DESCRIPTIONS FROM THE MAYFLOWER PILGRIMS

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you were partakers of our plenty."[1]

– Edward Winslow, December 11th, 1621

The earliest mention of the First Thanksgiving celebration is this passage by Edward Winslow from a letter he wrote to a friend back in England. This letter was published in the 1622 book which is now called *Mourt's Relation*. *Mourt's Relation* is a collection of five relations (written accounts) of the Pilgrims' first year in New England and is made up of journal entries and personal letters. In the original printing of the book, this passage is not separated in any special way from the other topics Winslow writes about, nor does Winslow refer to the event as thanksgiving. Later editions of *Mourt's Relation* have the passage edited into its own paragraph as a description of the First Thanksgiving.

William Bradford also mentions Plymouth's first harvest in *Of Plymouth Plantation*. Bradford, much like Winslow, never calls the event thanksgiving. Furthermore, while Bradford wrote about the town's first harvest, he never mentions an actual celebration. He does however refer to others writing about Plymouth's plentiful harvest and states they are true accounts. One of the accounts he is likely referring to is Winslow's letter which had been published by the time Bradford began his work on *Of Plymouth Plantation*.

"They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want, and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterwards decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides they had about a peck of meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports."[2]

These descriptions of the First Thanksgiving with its multiple days of games and feasting sound less like what a Pilgrim would think of as thanksgiving and more like a harvest celebration, which were popular all over England. It is important to remember though that even a harvest celebration, especially one held by the Pilgrims, members of a reformed church from Leiden, would contain many prayers and thanksgivings to God; therefore, it is easy to see why the event would later become known as Thanksgiving.

The Pilgrims did have what they referred to as days of thanksgiving. A day of thanksgiving was a religious observance typically called for by a magistrate, the church, or a head of household for a specific reason to give thanks to God. It was a day filled with sermons, prayer, and often fasting, quite different from the feasting and games associated with the First Thanksgiving. The days of religious observance did not necessarily occur on a specific date, but rather occurred as needed. Often a day of thanksgiving was preceded by a day of humiliation. Both observances, thanksgiving and humiliation, involved the same activities with the former being to give thanks to God and the latter asking for aid by humbling oneself before God.

The first recorded town-wide observed day of thanksgiving in Plymouth occurred in 1623. That year, Plymouth experienced a great drought that threatened to destroy the harvest. The town first "set apart a solemn day of humiliation, to seek the Lord by humble and fervent prayer."[3] Bradford's writing continues "afterwards the Lord sent them such seasonable showers, with interchange of fair warm weather as, through His blessing, caused a fruitful and liberal harvest, to their no small comfort and rejoicing. For which mercy, in time convenient, they also set apart a day of thanksgiving."[4]

A brief timeline of Thanksgiving in America

1621 – The "First Thanksgiving" is held in Plymouth. This event, which lasted three days, was recorded in a letter from Edward Winslow to his friend in England.

1789 – President George Washington declares the first National Day of Thanksgiving for Thursday, November 11th.

1837 – Sarah Josepha Hale begins her campaign to get Thanksgiving recognized as an annual national holiday, with a set date.

1863 – President Abraham Lincoln declares a national Thanksgiving on the last Thursday of November. From this year forward, each president will annually declare a national Thanksgiving usually in late November.

1864 – The Union League of New York helps organize a massive campaign to deliver Thanksgiving dinners to Union troops. This successful effort helps spread the still predominantly New England holiday around the country.

1876 – The Intercollegiate Football Association holds a Thanksgiving Day football game between Yale and Princeton in Hoboken, New Jersey. Football and Thanksgiving become an annual tradition. The tradition eventually became national with the NFL hosting games at both Detroit and Dallas each year.

1920 – The first Thanksgiving Day parade is organized by the local department stores in Philadelphia on November 25th. Other cities and businesses follow suit, including Macy's in New York City, and Thanksgiving Day parades become a Thanksgiving tradition.

1941 – Thanksgiving becomes federally recognized as a national holiday to occur each year on the 4th Thursday of November.

1970 – The first Day of Mourning is held in Plymouth, Massachusetts. This annual protest is organized by the United American Indians of New England. This protest seeks to draw attention to the past and to the continuing oppression and racism faced by Indigenous People in the United States.

2021 – The 400th Anniversary of the First Thanksgiving harvest celebration.

1. Dwight B. Heath, PhD. *Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth.* (Bedford, Massachusetts: Applewood Books, 1963), p. 82.
2. Samuel Eliot Morison, PhD. *Of Plymouth Plantation.* (New York: Random House, 1952), p. 131.
3. Samuel Eliot Morison, PhD. *Of Plymouth Plantation.* (New York: Random House, 1952), p. 131.
4. Samuel Eliot Morison, PhD. *Of Plymouth Plantation.* (New York: Random House, 1952), pp. 131, 132.

A General Sauce for Wild Fowl

ALEX CERVENAK, MEMBERSHIP AND SALES MANAGER

"The most generall sauce for ordinarie wild fowle roste, as Duckes, Mallard, Widgen, Tele, Snipe, Sheldrake, Pulers, Guls, and suchlike, is onely mustard and vinegar, or mustard and verjuyce mixt together, or else an onion, water, and Pepper and some (especially in the Court) use onely butter melted and not anything else."[1]

– *Gervase Markham, The English Housewife, 1623*[1]

Wild fowl was abundant in seventeenth century New England. Turkey, the usual suspect, was actually available all year, as were quails. Starting in the autumn, massive flocks of ducks, geese, pigeons and the like returned – so numerous that in the 1630s William Wood claimed "some have killed a hundred geese in a weeke, fiftie Duckes at a shot...it may be counted impossible though nothing more certaine."[2]

While his 1621 letter, which gives the account of First Thanksgiving, doesn't specifically mention the now traditional turkey by name, Edward Winslow does say that after the Pilgrims' first harvest was gathered "our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together." The party was so successful "They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week."[3]

This recipe adapts Markham's several suggestions into one sauce and uses a more manageable duck breast so that you do not have to worry about sending out your own fowling party.

Makes 2 servings.

- 1 duck breast (approximately 1 pound)
- ½ teaspoon ground mustard
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper, divided
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 1 ½ tablespoons salted butter
- 2 tablespoons whole grain Dijon mustard
- 2-3 tablespoons water
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 small yellow onion

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a small bowl whisk together ground mustard, ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper, and ½ teaspoon salt. Set aside.
3. With a sharp knife, score the skin on top of the duck breast into a cross hatch pattern, being careful to only cut as deep as the fat and not into the meat. Pat duck breast dry, and then season all over with spice mixture.
4. Melt ½ tablespoon butter in a frying pan over medium heat. Place duck skin side down and cook 5-6 minutes, until fat starts to render and skin turns a golden color. Turn the duck over and cook for another few minutes, until browned. If fat starts to smoke or duck seems in danger of burning, turn down heat.
5. Transfer duck, skin side up, to a roasting rack in a shallow pan. Roast in the oven for 45-55 minutes, depending on desired doneness (For medium cook until meat is about 140 degrees, for medium-well cook until meat is about 155 degrees). When done, allow the duck to rest 5-10 minutes before thinly slicing crosswise.
6. Meanwhile, as the duck rests, reserve about a tablespoon of rendered fat in the frying pan the duck was cooked in. Finely dice the onion and then add to the frying pan on low heat, and cook until soft. In a separate bowl whisk together the red wine vinegar, Dijon mustard, ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper, and 2-3 tablespoons of water depending on how thick the sauce is. Once the onions are tender and starting to brown, pour the mustard mixture into the pan. Add salt to taste, and finish with 1 tablespoon of butter. Once butter has melted and sauce is combined, pour over sliced duck to serve.

1. Markham, Gervase. Country *Contentments; or the English Huswife ... now much augmented, purged and made most profitable and necessarie for all men, etc.* United Kingdom: n.p., 1623.
2. Wood, William. *New England's Prospect: A True, Lively, and Experimentall Description of that Part of America, Commonly Called New England : Discovering the State of that Country, Both as it Stands to Our New-come English Planters, and to the Old Native Inhabitants : Laying Down that which May Both Enrich the Knowledge of the Mind-travelling Reader, Or Benefit the Future Voyager.* United States: University Microfilms, 1639.
3. Anonymous. *Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims in Plymouth.* United Kingdom: Applewood Books, 1986.

What is a Grandmother To Do?

BETH LAMBRIGHT, OREGON SOCIETY GOVERNOR

As a retired elementary school teacher and a grandmother in her 70s, I wondered what there was for me to do? Did I have to hang up my teaching skills, or could I use them in a new way? What if I could create a Pilgrim history lesson for children?

Many of us have skills that we can apply to share the Mayflower story with our families and even our friends' families. Who could not dress up a child and make cornbread with them, or read a story, or look at some items our ancestors would have used?

So, I created a Pilgrim history lesson. I decorated my dining room with a few Pilgrim related props from Plymouth and its local museums, as well as with some dress-up hats. I then invited a friend's grandchildren over for an hour of fun. I dressed myself in my homemade Pilgrim attire and dressed the children in the dress-up hats. I gave each child some coloring pages found on the General Society's website in the Members-only Section (Juniors Committee Page). The children enjoyed coloring in a picture of the *Mayflower*. On a simple map, I showed the children the sailing route of the *Mayflower* from its point of departure at Plymouth, England, to its arrival in New England.

I then showed the children the props that were sitting on my dining room table and windowsills – a model replica of the *Mayflower*, dolls dressed as Pilgrims and the Native people of Patuxet and some Indian corn. We discussed what it would have been like for these English people to settle in a new land,. grow all their own food, build their houses and make new relationships with their neighbors, the Pokanoket Wampanoag.

We then had a conversation about the children who traveled on the *Mayflower*. What would a child bring on this trip: a blanket, a compass, or some marbles to play with? I asked the children to go around the room with me to look at the various props – cooking ware, candles, a copy of the Mayflower Compact, a quill pen, a lantern, and other items. Each prop ignited more curiosity. The children wanted to know how each artifact was used and could they touch it? I learned that we need to use props they can touch and with which they can interact!

The history lesson also included what the Pilgrims might have eaten on the voyage to the New World. Then we all tasted ship's tack (recipe on Juniors Committee Page) and cornbread.

▲ Beth Lambright, in pilgrim attire, teaching about the *Mayflower* and the Pilgrims.

As a take-home reminder, each child received a small gift – a Mayflower children's book (suggestions on Juniors Committee Page), a Mayflower pencil or quill pen, and more coloring pages. They had loved their history day, eager to learn even more about the Pilgrims – and the funny thing is – so are their parents!

These history lessons have taken place in my home for several years now, especially during the summer when my senior friends often have children and grandchildren visiting. So, I arrange a Pilgrim day for their young visitors. This past week, my friend's grandchildren from Germany came to visit and loved learning the history of their American mother. Twelve-year-old Noah, nine-year-old India and seven-year-old Ezzie had a blast learning Mayflower (and American) history with their mom, dad and grandpa.

That, I decided, is what a grandmother is to do – tell our history in our homes in a very fun way!

▲ Noah, India, and Ezzie enjoying some hands on learning about the Pilgrims.

Online Discoveries: The USGenWeb® Project, Part One – History, Organization, the National Project, and Special Projects

DALE H. COOK

Introduction

The USGenWeb® Project[1] is the largest all-volunteer genealogical project in the United States, and holds a wide range of genealogical resources which may be of use to researchers of any level of experience.

History

The USGenWeb® Project was established in 1996 by a group of genealogists who shared a desire to create free online resources for genealogical research. Originally, beginning with online directories of text-based resources, their vision has grown into a network of over 3,000 linked websites, all individually created and maintained by a community of volunteers. Today, you may find a variety of unique county and state resources including photos, maps, transcriptions, historical documents, helpful links, and much more.

The Project was initially hosted on RootsWeb, which was a free genealogy community using online forums, mailing lists, and other resources to help people research their family history. RootsWeb was founded in 1993 by Brian Leverich and Karen Isaacson as the Roots Surname List, and grew to become the largest free, all-volunteer, online resource for genealogical research. In 2000, Brian and Karen sold RootsWeb to Generations Network, parent corporation of Ancestry.com, and all of Generation Network's sites were consolidated under the Ancestry banner in 2009. Following the sale, web pages like RootsWeb were commercialized using banner advertisements and other means including USGenWeb® Project pages. RootsWeb has been gradually dismantled by Ancestry.com, and in early 2024, all remaining USGenWeb® sites on RootsWeb will become read-only, and will no longer be updated. For the most current information on USGenWeb® websites, visit the USGenWeb® home page.[2]

The changes made by Ancestry.com to RootsWeb, beginning with its commercialization, have disappointed many Project members who wished to keep their work entirely non-commercial, and have led to the exodus of most USGenWeb® sites to non-commercial domains. Today the USGenWeb® National Project is hosted in its own domain (usgenweb.org), and state, county, and local pages, as well as a variety of special projects, are hosted non-commercially on a variety of domains.

Organization

The USGenWeb® Project is governed by a National Coordinator, annually elected by the USGenWeb® members. The National Coordinator works with an Advisory Board, whose members serve two-year terms. The Advisory Board is elected from state and county coordinators, plus an at-large elected member, and they represent the membership of the Project in its governance. The national project also contains an Election Committee which supervises Project elections, and a Grievance Committee which oversees disputes between Project Members. The national project's Web Managers oversee the national web site.

The level below the national organization consists of state projects for the fifty states. State Coordinators, other than some who are grandfathered, are elected by the USGenWeb® members in each state. The State Coordinators establish state sites, oversee the organization of each state project into counties, and appoint County Coordinators to establish and oversee county projects and county sites. The County Coordinators in turn appoint City and Town Coordinators who establish local sites. Resources for genealogical researchers are hosted at many levels, and resources found elsewhere online are frequently described and linked to on the state, county, and local sites.

▲ The 1866 tomb of Lemuel Packard in Melrose Cemetery in Brockton, a 6th generation descendent of John Alden. Photo credit: Dale H. Cook.

The National Project

Although most researchers' involvement with the USGenWeb® Project national site may be limited to finding resources, such as state projects and the national special projects, the national site is the backbone of all USGenWeb® sites. Much of the national site is not intended for researchers. Although the national site has pages offering tips, recommendations, and research aids, much of it concerns the governance and operation of the USGenWeb® Project, as well as rules, recommendations, standards, and guidance for the many volunteers who create sites and content for the project.

Special Projects

A very useful set of resources for genealogical researchers accessed through the national site are the special projects, each of which has a specialized focus. The special projects are curated collections of facts related to focused topics. These USGenWeb affiliate projects are independently managed. One, I have frequently used, is the Tombstone Project,[3] which is organized by state and subdivided by county and locality. In it, volunteers have made available gravestone transcriptions and abstracts for a number of cemeteries. Development of those resources began before most other online sites offered gravestone information, and many of them are more complete or more reliable than other online sources.

Other special projects include:

The Archives Project,[4] a digital library that curates a variety of contributed transcriptions, documents, images, and photos. Collections include Census Images, Court Cases, Digital Maps, Marriages, Newsletters, Obituaries, Pension, and Special Collections.

The Family Group Sheets Project[5] is a growing curated collection of family lineages, supported by many contributors for over twenty years.

The Kidz Project[6] is dedicated to helping you and your children or students learn about genealogy and contains topics for beginner, intermediate, and advanced level researchers.

The US African American Griots Project[7] provides an opportunity to find records unique to the "African American Experience", and curates military, vital, surname, probate records and photos.

My next column will cover the USGenWeb® Project's state, county, and local projects.

Dale H. Cook <webmaster@plymouthcolony.net> serves as the Massachusetts State Coordinator for the USGenWeb® Project, and specializes in Plymouth Colony families, especially those of Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Dale is a member of The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine staff as Contributing Genealogist.

ENDNOTES

1. Online at https://usgenweb.org.
2. See https://usgenweb.org.
3. http://www.usgwtombstones.org/.
4. http://usgwarchives.net/.
5. https://www.fgs-project.com/.
6. https://usgwkidz.whalen-family.org/.
7. https://www.usgenwebsites.org/AAGriots/default.html.

Where Did Doty Descendant Enoch Hall and His Family Go?

ERICA HAHN, ASSISTANT HISTORIAN, CALIFORNIA

The *Silver Book* of Edward Doty includes the family of **Enoch[5] Hall** (*Sarah[4] Hatch, Ebenezer[3], Mary[2] Doty, Edward[1]*) [who is also a Richard Warren descendant through his mother] and his wife, **Bethia Crooker** [a Francis Eaton descendant].[1] They lived in Kingston, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, shown with the five children listed below. The *Silver Book* cites the vital records of Kingston and Pembroke but does not include any further information or death information. Enoch bought property in Kingston in 1779 and sold it in 1789.[2] No other deed records were recorded, and no probate records were found for either Enoch or Bethia in Plymouth County. The family disappeared from Plymouth County.

Children of Enoch and Bethia (Crooker) Hall, b. Kingston:

i. [child] b. ca. 4 Aug. 1779; d. Kingston 27 Feb. 1781 ae 1y 6m 23d.

ii. Sally bap. Aug. 1781.

iii. Zenas bap. 28 Sept. 1783.

iv. Asia bap. 10 Sept. 1786.

v. Elijah Crooker bap. 11 Oct. 1789.

Evidence points to a move to Sumner, Oxford County, Maine. An article published in *The Maine Genealogist* entitled "Family Records of Sumner, Maine" transcribes the family of Enoch Hall and Bethiah Croker in Sumner.[3] The article explains that the first settlers started taking up land in Sumner after the end of the American Revolution through 1784. Many of the families came from Plymouth County and especially the towns of Pembroke, Halifax, and Plympton. Enoch Hall served in the Revolutionary War and his pension file provides further details on the relocation and coincides with the information in the article. He filed for a pension in 1831 and it was issued in 1834. The files state Enoch was a resident of Kingston, Massachusetts, when he enlisted in 1776 and later moved to Sumner, where he lived for thirty or forty years, then moved to Parkman, Piscataquis County, Maine, for six or seven years before he moved again. He was a resident of Abbot, Somerset County, Maine, in 1832.[4]

Original town records for Sumner are available and a digital image of the record is on *FamilySearch.org* which lists eight children for the Enoch Hall family and gives birthdates and some death dates.[5] It was not uncommon for residents to record vital information for previous children in a new town. The names of the first four children align with the family from Kingston, and their birth dates are consistent with the baptismal dates taken from the Kingston records. Enoch and his family moved to Sumner, Maine, circa 1790, and the later children were likely born there. Thus, we see a complete family unit for the Halls, their actual birth dates, and the death dates of several family members.

Enoch[5] Hall (*Sarah[4] Hatch, Ebenezer[3], Mary[2] Doty, Edward[1]*) son of Abner Hall and Sarah Hatch, was born 10 July 1753 at Kingston, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, and died 26 April 1838 in Maine.[6] He published intentions 4 April 1778 at Kingston and married 7 May 1778 at Pembroke, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, **Bethiah[6] Crooker** (*Mary[5] Ramsden, Samuel[4] Eaton, Daniel[3], Rachel[2], Francis[1]*).[7] She was born 15 September 1757 and baptized 9 October 1757 at Pembroke, daughter of Daniel Crooker and Mary Ramsden.[8] She died 26 May 1820 at Sumner, Oxford County, Maine.[9]

Enoch is also a 7th generation descendant of Richard Warren through his mother.[10] (*Sarah[6] Hatch, Abigail[5] Jones, Joseph[4], Patience[3] Little, Anna[2] Warren, Richard[1]*)

Children of Enoch and Bethiah (Crooker) Hall, the first five born and baptized at Kingston, Massachusetts, the last four born at Sumner, Maine:[11]

i. Joseph[6] Hall b. ca. 1779; d. Kingston 27 Feb. 1781 ae 1y 6m 23d.[12]

ii. Sally Hall b. 25 April 1781 and bap. Aug. 1781.

iii. Zenas Hall b. 27 June 1783 and bap. 28 Sept. 1783.

iv. Asia Hall b. 24 March 1786 and bap. 10 Sept. 1786; d. Sumner 29 May 1790.

v. Elijah Crooker Hall b. 6 Aug. 1788 and bap. 11 Oct. 1789.

VI. Bethiah Hall b. 14 July 1791.

VII. Molly Johnson Hall b. 6 June 1794.

VIII. Joseph Hall b. 23 July 1796.

IX. Cyrus Hall b. 21 Mar. 1799; d. Sumner 19 April 1799.

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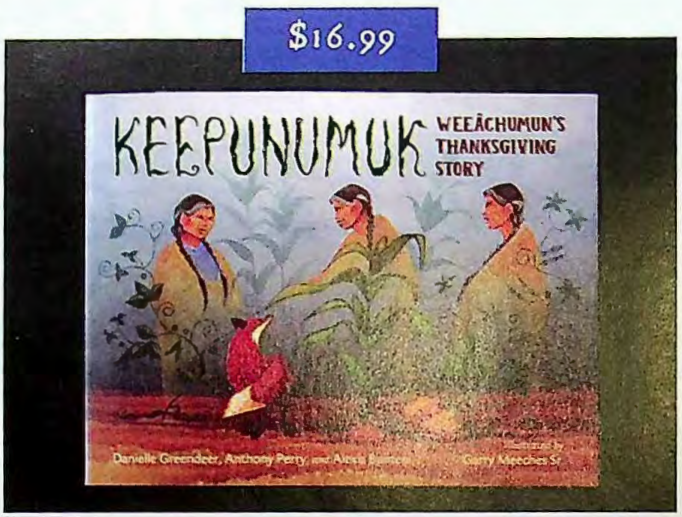
1. Peter B. Hill, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations... Edward Doty*, Vol. Eleven, Part 3 (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2000), p. 229.
2. Plymouth Co., Mass., Register of Deeds, Deeds v. 59, p. 238 *verso*, John Phinney to Enoch Hall, rec. 3 May 1779; also Deeds v. 71, p. 18 *verso*, Enoch Hall to Richard Johnson, rec. 26 Mar. 1791; also Deeds v. 71, p. 227 *recto*, Enoch Hall to John Johnson, rec. 29 Sep. 1791; digital images *FamilySearch* (**https://www.familysearch.org**); FHL microfilm #007450659, image 552; #007450695, image 327; #007450695, image 541.
3. "Family Records of Sumner, Maine", *The Maine Genealogist*, Vol. 27 (Feb. 2005), pp. 3, 10-11.
4. A. D. Hiller, Executive Assistant to the Administrator, Commissioner of Pensions, to Ellis B. Hall, letter, 2 Mar. 1937; Enoch Hall (Pvt., Turner's Co., 12th & 14th Mass. Regt., Rev. War), pension no. S32306, Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based Rev. War Service...1775-1900; Record Group 15: Records of the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. Sumner, Oxford Co., Maine, Town Clerk, Record of Births-Deaths-Marriages 1733-1853, pp. 24-25 for Enoch Hall; digital images, *FamilySearch* (**https://www.familysearch.org**); FHL microfilm #008006710, image 22.
6. For birth see Kingston, Plymouth Co., Mass., Town Clerk, Births Marriages Deaths v. 1, 1695-1870, p. 38 for Enoch Hall; digital images, FamilySearch (**https://www.familysearch.org**); FHL microfilm #007009751, image 28. For death see E. S. Hall, *History of the Hall Family: Compiled for the First General Reunion of the Family...* (Hoopesten, Ill.: The Daily Chronicle Print, 1891), unpaginated p. 4. See also, Sumner, Oxford Co., Maine, Town Clerk, Record of Births-Deaths-Marriages 1733-1853, pp. 24-25 for Enoch Hall; digital images, *FamilySearch* (**https://www.familysearch.org**); FHL microfilm #008006710, image 22.
7. For descendancy see Robert S. Wakefield, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations...Francis Eaton*, Vol. Nine (Plymouth, MA: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1996), p. 96. For published intentions see Kingston, Plymouth Co., Mass., Town Clerk, "Births, Marriages, Deaths, v. 2," 1744-1875, p. 78. For marriage see "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," database with images, *Ancestry* (**https://www.ancestry.com**), entry for Enoch Hall and Bethiah Crooker; citing Kingston, Plymouth Co., Mass., Town Clerk, Births, Marriages and Deaths, p. 15. Enoch and Bethiah appear on a list of marriages that took place in Pembroke but where one or both parties were residents of Kingston.
8. Sumner, Oxford Co., Maine, Town Clerk, Record of Births-Deaths-Marriages 1733-1853, pp. 24-25 for Enoch Hall; digital images, *FamilySearch* (**https://www.familysearch.org**); FHL microfilm #008006710, image 22. *Vital Records of Pembroke, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1911), p. 67.
9. Sumner, Oxford Co., Maine, Town Clerk, Record of Births-Deaths-Marriages 1733-1853, pp. 24-25 for Enoch Hall; digital images, *FamilySearch* (**https://www.familysearch.org**); FHL microfilm #008006710, image 22.
10. Robert Wakefield, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations...Richard Warren*, Vol. Eighteen, Part 2 (Plymouth, MA: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2011), p. 157.
11. *Vital Records of Kingston, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1911), pp. 86-88. Sumner, Oxford Co., Maine, Town Clerk, Record of Births-Deaths-Marriages 1733-1853, pp. 24-25 for Enoch Hall; digital images, *FamilySearch* (**https://www.familysearch.org**); FHL microfilm #008006710, image 22. See also, "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," database with images, *Ancestry* (**https://www.ancestry.com**), entries for Sally, Zenas, Asia, and Elijah Crooker children of Enoch Hall; citing First Congregational Parish of Kingston, Mass., Book 1 and Book 2, WPA transcription, pp. 54-57.
12. *Vital Records of Kingston, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1911), p. 355. *Death Records from the Ancient Burial Ground at Kingston* (Boston, Mass.: Mass. Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1905), p. 19; reprinted from volume VII of the Mayflower Descendant.

SALES



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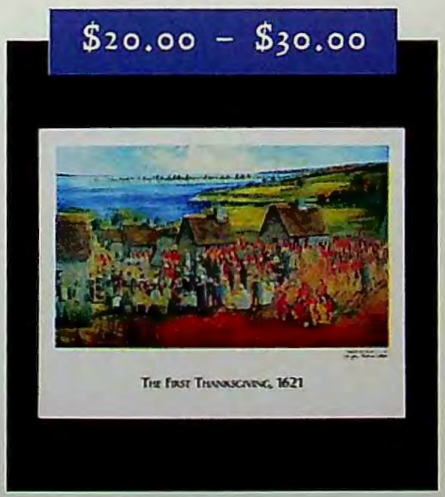

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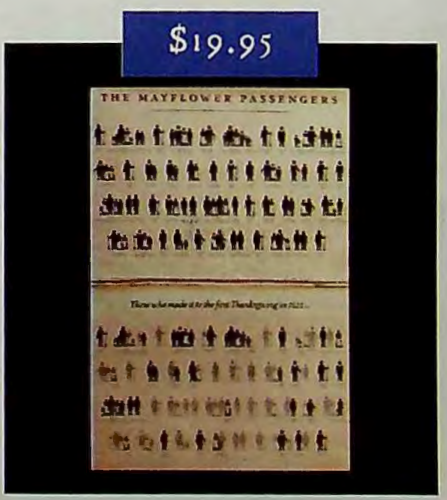

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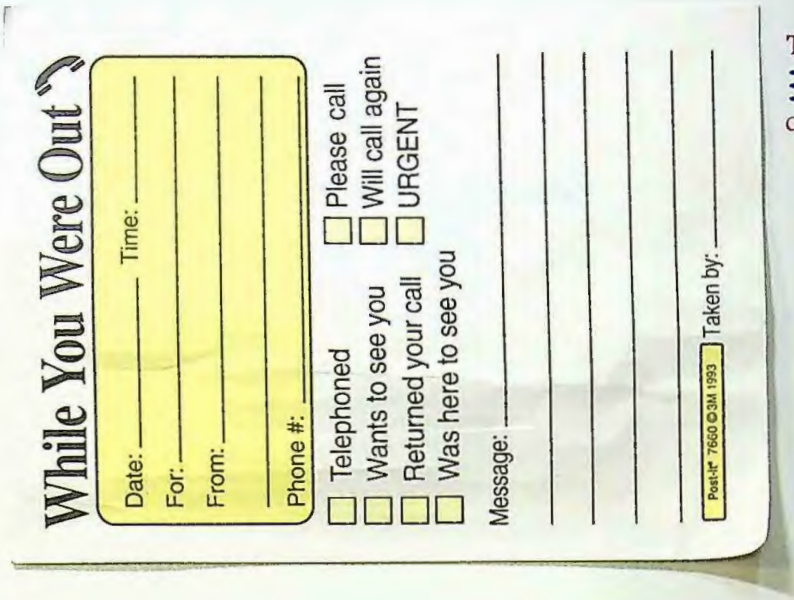

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